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The resource in these two areas (BSAI) is managed as a single unit. Tagging studies (e.g., Shimada and Kimura 1994) have demonstrated significant migration both within and between the EBS, AI, and Gulf of Alaska (GOA). Although at least one previous genetic study (Grant et al. 1987) failed to show significant evidence of stock structure within these areas, current genetic research underway at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center may soon shed additional light on the issue of stock structure of Pacific cod within the BSAI (M. Canino, AFSC, pers. commun.). Pacific cod is not known to exhibit any special life history characteristics that would require it to be assessed or managed differently from other groundfish stocks in the EBS or AI areas.

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Area Allocation of Harvests

At present, ABC of BSAI Pacific cod is not allocated by area. However, the Council is presently considering the possibility of specifying separate harvests in the EBS and AI.

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Table 2.1b—Summary of 1981-2007 catches (t) of Pacific cod in the Eastern Bering Sea by fleet sector and gear type. All catches include discards. LLine = longline, Subt. = sector subtotal. Catches for 2007 are through early October.

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Table 2.2b—Summary of 1981-2007 catches (t) of Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands region by fleet sector and gear type. All catches include discards. LLine = longline, Subt. = sector subtotal. Catches for 2007 are through early October.

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Figure 2.1a—Maps showing each 400 square kilometer cell with at least 3 observed hauls/sets containing Pacific cod in January-May 2006, by gear type, overlaid against NMFS 3-digit statistical areas.

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Figure 2.1b—Maps showing each 400 square kilometer cell with at least 3 observed hauls/sets containing Pacific cod in June-August 2006, by gear type, overlaid against NMFS 3-digit statistical areas.

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Figure 2.1c—Maps showing each 400 square kilometer cell with at least 3 observed hauls/sets containing Pacific cod in September-December 2006, by gear type, overlaid against NMFS 3-digit statistical areas.

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Figure 2.1d—Maps showing each 400 square kilometer cell with at least 3 observed hauls/sets containing Pacific cod in January-May 2007, by gear type, overlaid against NMFS 3-digit statistical areas.

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Figure 2.1e—Maps showing each 400 square kilometer cell with at least 3 observed hauls/sets containing Pacific cod in June-August 2007, by gear type, overlaid against NMFS 3-digit statistical areas.

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Figure 1. Comparative biomass density (left) and mortality sources (right) for Pacific cod in the AI, EBS, and GOA ecosystems. For the AI and GOA, biomass density (left) is the average biomass from early 1990s NMFS bottom trawl surveys divided by the total area surveyed. For the EBS, biomass density is the stock assessment estimated adult (age 3+) biomass for 1991 (Thompson and Dorn 2005) divided by the total area covered by the EBS bottom trawl survey. Total cod production (right) is derived from cod stock assessments for the early 1990's, and partitioned according to fishery catch data and predation mortality estimated from cod predator diet data (Aydin et al. in press). See Annex A for detailed methods.